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TESTIMONIALS

IN FAVOUR OF

DR. J. A. EASTON'S

APPLICATION FOR THE SURGEONCY

OF THE

GLASGOW TOWN'S HOSPITAL.

MDCCCXL.

GLASGOW:
PRINTED IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICE.

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TO THE HONOURABLE THE PRECEPTOR AND THE DIRECTORS OF THE TOWN'S HOSPITAL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg leave most respectfully to offer myself a Candidate for the Surgeoncy of the Town's Hospital, and to present to you the accompanying Certificates as to character, abilities, and fitness for the office. For the sake of arrangement I have classified these Testimonials under THREE DIVISIONS,—the FIRST of which refers to moral worth and literary attainments,—the SECOND to professional qualifications,—while the THIRD contains opinions regarding my conduct from the non-professional Gentlemen under whose immediate superintendence I discharged my public duties. Referring you then to these Certificates for general information regarding me, I may be allowed to say for myself that I have been in practice in this City for more than twelve years, during nearly nine of which I have been engaged in the duties of the District Surgeoncy —duties which I declare I have always performed* *in person*, and not by delegation, as has been falsely insinuated, and that, conscious of having *endeavoured*, honestly and faithfully, to perform all that was required of me, I respectfully refer you to what I have done in the past as an earnest of what I am likely to do in the future.

One word more—An impression prevails, I understand, that the conspicuous part which I took in discussing the recent changes in the medical appointments of the Hospital, will militate against the success of this application. This, Gentlemen, I cannot, and will not credit. Believing, as I do, that the Directors who advocated these alterations, acted from conscientious motives, and from the firm conviction that such changes were likely to benefit the poor and the public, I cannot for a moment suppose, that because a person differed—and still differs—from

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* Understanding that a rumour prevails on this subject, Dr. Easton most anxiously courts the fullest investigation into this part of his conduct. He calls upon the Directors to examine Elders, Paupers, and his Students, of the latter of whom there are three still in Glasgow—all of them of undoubted veracity—one of them the Gentleman appointed by the "Glasgow Missionary Society in connection with the Church of Scotland," to superintend the operations of that Society in Caffraria, whither he proceeds in July, so that *his* evidence, at least, ought to be taken before that time.

them in opinion, that the firm but respectful expression of that difference will prove any obstacle to his success, provided he be found to be legally, morally, and professionally qualified. Besides, with the opinions which my letter contained, all the District Surgeons identified themselves; for though, indeed, none of them saw that document until it appeared in public, still so fully did they think that it embodied *their* opinions, that, at *their* UNANIMOUS *request, and at their expense, was it reprinted from the newspaper and circulated among the Directors.* I hope it is almost unnecessary for me to add, that of the scurrilous and anonymous publications which disgraced the recent discussion, I completely wash my hands, or for me to declare that everything which I have written on this subject bears the signature of,

GENTLEMEN,

Your very obedient Servant,

J. A. EASTON, M.D.

31, COLLEGE STREET, GLASGOW,
29th FEB., 1840.

TESTIMONIALS.

FIRST DIVISION.

FROM THE LATE PROFESSOR WALKER.

GLASGOW COLLEGE, 1st APRIL, 1831.

While Mr. John A. Easton attended my class, I regarded him as in all respects one of the most meritorious and exemplary students whom it contained. To excellent natural talents he added a diligence as vigorous and constant, as if diligence had been all he had to depend upon for distinction; while these qualities were recommended by a propriety of conduct which evinced a more than ordinary portion of good sense, and by a manner, temper, and disposition of the most engaging and amiable kind. Of Mr. Easton's professional acquirements I am no judge; but, from my experience of his character, I can venture to say that, in the study of his profession, he could not fail to be assiduous and successful, and that, in the practice of it, he must have undergone a great change, if he be not able, attentive, and conscientious.

JOSIAH WALKER, L.H.P.

FROM THE LATE SIR DANIEL KEYTE SANDFORD.

COLLEGE OF GLASGOW, MARCH 30, 1831.

I beg to certify that Mr. John A. Easton was for two sessions a distinguished student of the Greek Class in this University. During that period of attendance he gave ample proofs of excellent talents, and of an industry and perseverance which were successfully employed in their cultivation. His correct, regular, and manly conduct and deportment, were uniformly such as to command my warm approbation. I can have no doubt that his abilities and assiduity have made him a master of the medical profession, to which he has devoted himself; and my knowledge of his character and habits makes me certain that he will give high satisfaction in any situation in which he may be placed.

D. K. SANDFORD, L.G.P.

FROM THE REV. DR. BROWN OF ST. JOHN'S.

GLASGOW, 19th FEB., 1840.

Dr. John Easton has been known to me personally for several years, being a member of St. John's congregation. Of his professional merits I am not qualified to speak, but of the worth of his moral character I can speak with the utmost confidence. I believe him to be a gentleman of strictly religious principle and exemplary deportment. He is in full communion with the Church, and so far as is known to me his conduct is in every respect becoming his Christian profession. He may be admitted to Church privileges wherever Divine Providence may order his lot.

THOS. BROWN, Minister.

FROM SIR WILLIAM JACKSON HOOKER.

WOODSIDE CRESCENT, FEB. 25, 1840.

GENTLEMEN,

Understanding that the situation of Surgeon to the Glasgow Town's Hospital is at this time vacant, and that Dr. John Easton is a candidate, I beg leave most respectfully to state that I have had the pleasure of knowing that gentleman for many years, and that I entertain a very high opinion of his professional abilities, and of his high moral worth and character; and should he be deemed by you worthy of the honour to which he aspires, I have no hesitation in saying that he will fulfil the important duties required of him, with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of the gentlemen interested in the Institution.

I have the honour to be,

GENTLEMEN,

Your very obedient Servant,

W. J. HOOKER,

Regius Professor of Botany in the University of Glasgow.

To the Managers of the Glasgow Town's Hospital.

SECOND DIVISION.

FROM PROFESSOR JOHN COUPER.

GLASGOW, 19th FEB., 1840.

I have known Dr. Easton, College Street, for a number of years, and have great pleasure in stating my opinion of his character and qualifications for the office of Surgeon to the Town's Hospital. While a student at the University of Glasgow, Dr. Easton was eminently distinguished as a classical scholar; he afterwards received a complete medical education, took the degree of M.D., and has, during the last twelve years, acquired a high character as a private practitioner, as a District Surgeon, and as a medical teacher. From my knowledge of his conduct in all these situations, as well as from meeting him in consultation, I can state, without hesitation, that I consider him not merely a well informed and judicious, but likewise a highly accomplished and experienced, member of the medical profession. His moral character is unimpeachable. In short, were I called upon to name a Surgeon to the Town's Hospital, I could not select a gentleman more worthy of the office than Dr. Easton, or one more likely to fulfil its duties, with credit to himself, and advantage to the Institution; and I consider the Directors, therefore, as fortunate in having it in their power to secure his services.

JOHN COUPER, M.D.,
Professor of Materia Medica.

FROM DR. MACKENZIE,

Lecturer on the Eye in the University of Glasgow, Surgeon Oculist to the Queen, &c. &c.

GLASGOW, 19th FEB., 1840.

I have long had the pleasure of being acquainted with Dr. Easton,—have met him in consultation in numerous serious cases,—entertain a high opinion of his abilities and medical acquirements, and consider him well qualified for any medical or surgical appointment for which he may apply.

W. MACKENZIE, M.D.

FROM DR. RAINY,

Interim Lecturer on the Practice of Medicine in the University of Glasgow, &c.

10, MOORE PLACE, 20th FEB., 1840.

I have had the pleasure of being intimately acquainted with Dr. Easton for several years, and entertain a very high opinion of his general character—his acquirements—and his talents. He is thoroughly acquainted with all the departments of medical science. He has been eminently successful as a medical teacher; and he has great experience in the treatment of disease, not only in private practice, but also as a District Surgeon. On these grounds, I consider Dr. Easton peculiarly qualified for the office of Surgeon to the Town's Hospital, for which he is now a candidate.

HARRY RAINY, M.D.

FROM JOHN MACNISH, ESQ.,
Lately President of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons.

FEB. 23, 1840.

I have known Dr. John Easton since his childhood, and have the greatest pleasure in bearing testimony to his correct conduct and studious habits. He has for several years been a most successful teacher of students aspiring to the highest medical honours in our University, and as such is recognised by the different Medical Boards in this country and Ireland. He has been a practitioner of medicine twelve years, during nine of which he has acted as District Surgeon; and, in consequence of the high opinion I entertain of his professional acquirements, I do confidently recommend him to the attention of the Directors of the Town's Hospital, as well qualified to perform the important duties of Surgeon to that Establishment.

JOHN MACNISH, Surgeon.

FROM DR. WEIR,
One of the Physicians to the Royal Infirmary, Lecturer on the Practice of Medicine, &c. &c.

120, BUCHANAN STREET, GLASGOW,
22d FEB., 1840.

I have been intimately acquainted with Dr. John Easton for the last fifteen years, during the whole of which our professional intercourse has been constant and uninterrupted. He was a pupil of mine in the years 1824 and 1825, and ably assisted me in visiting and treating the sick poor in an extensive District of the City, then under my superintendence; and he lost no opportunity of thus acquiring, at an early period of his studies, a practical knowledge of the medical profession. After he commenced practice on his own account, I was frequently indebted to him for taking the whole charge of my District, and for visiting many of my private patients, when ill health prevented my own attendance. Under all circumstances, I had every reason to be highly satisfied with his kindness and attention to the patients,—his zealous and industrious habits,—his anxiety to learn his profession thoroughly,—and his skill and success in practice. At a subsequent period, after he became a District Surgeon himself, Dr. Easton wrote several able statistical papers, detailing the causes of disease, the results of the practice, and the average mortality among the working population of this city; and suggesting many improvements in the management of the sick poor. These papers were published in the Glasgow Medical Journal, and they display, not only great professional knowledge, but considerable acuteness and research, and they contain much information in regard to the Medical Statistics of Glasgow. Besides these means of judging of Dr. Easton's talents and medical knowledge, I have frequently met with him in consultation, and I have no hesitation in certifying, that he has studied all

the branches of medicine with the utmost care and attention,—that for several sessions he has been engaged in teaching it to Medical Students, and that he has been a skilful and successful practitioner for more than twelve years. I must also add, that Dr. Easton's manners are modest and unassuming, and that he possesses, in an eminent degree, that firmness and decision of character so useful to a medical man, and so peculiarly requisite for the proper management of cases of emergency, so apt to occur in Hospital practice. I therefore consider Dr. Easton eminently qualified to take the charge of the medical department of the Town's Hospital, and I earnestly recommend him to the attention of the Directors.

WILLIAM WEIR, M.D.

FROM PROFESSOR A. BUCHANAN.

Glasgow, 110, St. Vincent Street,
22d Feb., 1840.

Having read the very able Reports, published by Dr. Easton, of the Diseases of the City Poor, and knowing the character which he bears as a well informed and intelligent man, I was sorry to learn that he was about to be displaced from his office as a District Surgeon. I have since learned that there is a chance of his being promoted to be Surgeon to the Hospital. I think his past services entitle him to that distinction; and I have much pleasure in certifying, that I believe him to be excellently qualified for the duties which will then devolve upon him.

ANDREW BUCHANAN, M.D.
And in Univ. Glasgow Institut. Medic. Prof.

FROM DR. WILSON,
Interim Lecturer on Midwifery in the University of Glasgow, &c.

Miller Street, 21st Feb., 1840.

I have known Dr. Easton for many years, and have been often engaged with him in cases of consultation. I have thus had many opportunities of estimating his professional qualifications, and I have formed a very high opinion of him, both as a very correct man, and as a superior, well qualified, useful practitioner; and from what I know of Dr. Easton, I am convinced he will faithfully and efficiently discharge the duties of that situation for which he offers himself a candidate.

JAMES WILSON, M.D.

FROM DR. COWAN,
Professor of Forensic Medicine in the University of Glasgow, &c. &c.

Glasgow, 22d Feb., 1840.

I have been well acquainted for many years with Dr. John Easton, College Street, one of the District Surgeons of the City, and now Can-

didate for the office of Surgeon to the Town's Hospital, and have had ample opportunities of forming an estimate of his general and professional attainments. Dr. Easton is an excellent classical scholar, and intimately conversant with the different sciences connected with medicine. For many years he has been engaged in teaching the more advanced medical Students of the University—men qualified to judge of the attainments of their preceptor ; and, from their reports, and my own knowledge, I can state that Dr. Easton is highly esteemed as a medical teacher. Dr. Easton is a judicious, intelligent, and experienced medical practitioner, who, during the last nine years, has devoted much of his time to the treatment of the Poor as a District Surgeon during the prevalence of different epidemics. From Dr. Easton's character and deportment, his general and professional acquirements, the zeal with which he has so long discharged the duties of a District Surgeon, I conceive that he is highly qualified, and has strong claims to the office of Surgeon to the Town's Hospital of Glasgow.

ROBERT COWAN, M.D.

FROM DR. MACFARLANE.

114, St. Vincent Street,
Feb. 26, 1840.

I have known Dr. Easton for several years, and have met him frequently in consultation. He is an exceedingly well educated and skilful practitioner, having had, both in private practice, and among the poor of the District with which he has been for several years connected, the very best opportunities of acquiring practical knowledge in his profession, and of which, I believe, he has most faithfully availed himself.

JOHN MACFARLANE, M.D.

FROM PROFESSOR J. Y. SIMPSON.

Dean Terrace, Edinburgh,
28th Feb. 1840.

I have heard Dr. Easton of Glasgow very highly spoken of by some of his Pupils with whom I have come in contact, as an excellent teacher, and a very successful and scientific practitioner. The different contributions which he has given to the Glasgow Medical Journal, and, more recently, to the Dublin Medical Press, have shown an intimate knowledge both with Pathology and Practice, and at the sametime display so great a power of observation and analysis, that I feel assured Dr. Easton's appointment to the medical charge of any Institution would not fail to be a benefit, both to the Institution itself, but also to medical science.

JAMES Y. SIMPSON, M.D.,
Professor of Midwifery in the University of Edinburgh, &c.

FROM PROFESSOR BENSON.

York Street, Dublin, Feb. 22, 1840.

Having been requested to state my opinion of Dr. J. A. Easton's professional qualifications, I am happy to be able to say that I consider them of a very superior kind. Before I had the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with Dr. Easton, he was known to me by the very favourable report of some of my pupils who had attended his instructions while preparing to graduate in the University of Glasgow. They represented him as an intelligent, highly informed, and able teacher, who had won their confidence and secured their esteem. On becoming personally acquainted with him, I felt convinced that they had formed, as they generally do, a very correct judgment. From all that I know of Dr. Easton, therefore, I have no hesitation in expressing my belief that he will faithfully and efficiently perform the duties of the Glasgow Town's Hospital, for which he is now a Candidate.

CHARLES BENSON, M.D., M.R.I.A.
Member and Censor R. Col. of Surgeons in Ireland;
Professor of the Pract. of Med. R.C.S.; Physician to the City of Dublin Hospital, &c. &c. &c.

FROM MR. HAYDEN OF DUBLIN.

32, Harcourt Street, Dublin,
24th Feb., 1840.

I have had the pleasure of Dr. J. A. Easton's acquaintance for some time. Very many of my pupils were under his personal care, and while receiving his valuable instructions, had abundant opportunities of ascertaining that he possessed a complete and extended knowledge of his profession. From all I know, and all I have heard of this gentleman, I am fully satisfied, that he will prove himself, in all respects, to be a most eligible Candidate for the situation of Medical Superintendent of a charitable Institution.

G. T. HAYDEN, A.B.T.C.D.,
Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland,
Surgeon to the Anglesey Hospital,
Lecturer on Anatomy, Physiology, and Surgery, and Proprietor of the Original School of Medicine,
Peter Street, Dublin.

FROM JAMES HALL, ESQ., R.N.

Government Emigration Office, Dublin,
21st Feb., 1840.

My Dear Sir,

Having had many opportunities of observing your high professional attainments, both as a lecturer and practitioner, and of estimating them by my many years' experience in medicine, I beg you will permit me to tender my sense of your abilities, and to express my opinion of

your extensive acquirements in the various branches of medical science. In offering my testimony herein to the consideration of all persons who take an interest in the welfare of those who are suffering under sickness, whether in privacy, or at any public institution, I am only discharging a duty to them, by making known how well qualified you are, both to instruct and to treat, all who may fall under your care. Hoping that you may long enjoy, for the benefit of the public, ample opportunities wherein to display your knowledge of a profession which you have highly cultivated,

I remain,

My Dear Sir,

Your very obedt. humble Servant,

JAMES HALL,

M.R.C.S., London,

And Government Selecting Officer of Emigrants in Ireland.

FROM PROFESSOR HARGRAVE.

DUBLIN, FEB., 1840.

From the opportunities afforded me of judging of Dr. John A. Easton's medical acquirements, and from the very favourable manner in which he has been represented to me, as a gentleman possessed of first-rate professional information by his pupils, I consider him eminently qualified to discharge the duties of any medical institution that may be confided to his care, judgment, and skill.

WILLIAM HARGRAVE, M.B.T.C.D.,

Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland;

Professor of Descriptive and Surgical Anatomy to the Royal College of Surgeons;

Surgeon to the City Dublin Hospital, &c.

FROM DR. DAVIDSON,

Lecturer on Materia Medica, &c.

GLASGOW, 22d FEB., 1840.

I have been acquainted with Dr. John Easton for eight or nine years, and have had frequent opportunities of meeting him, both in consultation and otherwise. I have always considered him an exceedingly well educated and qualified practitioner, both in the literature and practice of the profession. His long and, during several epidemics, his arduous experience as a District Surgeon, his constant cultivation of professional pursuits, and his other general acquirements, qualify him, in a high degree, for the office of Surgeon to the Town's Hospital.

WM. DAVIDSON, M.D.,

One of the Physicians to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary.

FROM DR. LAURIE,

Senior Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary, Professor of Surgery, &c.

MOORE PLACE, FEB. 25, 1840.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Dr. J. A. Easton for several years, and gladly embrace this opportunity of bearing testimony to his merits and many good qualities. Dr. Easton has for many years been in extensive practice in Glasgow, and has acquired a character for steadiness, skill, and professional knowledge, which is daily gaining ground among his medical brethren. I have had opportunities of meeting him in practice, and am fully satisfied of his correct views of the nature of disease, and his practical skill in treating it. Dr. Easton is the author of several very creditable papers in the Glasgow Medical Journal and other periodicals. His remarks on Cholera and diseases of the poor show that he has made good use of the ample opportunities he has enjoyed during his many years of laborious practice as a District Surgeon. I know no one in the profession in Glasgow who has higher claims to the situation of Surgeon to the Town's Hospital, or who would more faithfully perform the duties of that important office.

J. A. LAURIE, M.D.

FROM DR. M. S. BUCHANAN,

Lately Senior Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary, and Lecturer on Anatomy, &c.

GLASGOW, 24th FEB., 1840.

I feel great pleasure in certifying that I have known intimately for many years, Dr. John Easton, who is at present a Candidate for the situation of Surgeon to the Town's Hospital. I do not know a more zealous and indefatigable practitioner, a more able or talented Surgeon, or a more conscientious and obliging friend. The Directors of the Town's Hospital may rest assured that, by electing Dr. Easton, they will consult the interests of the Institution, as well as the well-being of the inmates.

M. S. BUCHANAN, M.D.

THIRD DIVISION.

FROM THE VERY REV. PRINCIPAL MACFARLAN.

College, Gaasgow, 21st Feb., 1840.

Dr. J. A. Easton has been long known to me ; first, as a distinguished student at this University ; and latterly, as a highly respectable Medical Graduate and Practitioner—in particular, during a period, some years back, when he officiated as Town's Surgeon, in a district embracing part of the Parish under my charge. I have reason to know that he discharged his duty in a manner highly creditable to himself, and satisfactory to all classes with whom he had occasion to hold intercourse.

D. MACFARLAN, D.D.

FROM MR. WILLIAM THOMSON, JUN.,
Elder, High Church Parish.

Glasgow, 19th Feb., 1840.

As a Director of the Town's Hospital for nine years, and a Member of the Weekly Committee for a great portion of that time, as well as a Member of the Board of Health during the prevalence of Cholera, and as an Elder in the District when Dr. John A. Easton held his first charge of a District Surgeon, in 1831, I had full knowledge of the manner in which he discharged the duties of his appointment, and do most willingly testify, that I considered him assiduously attentive to the interests of the public, and to the necessities of the poor. And I know that, when changing his District, there was a general expression of regret among the poor who were losing the benefits of his skilful attention.

WILLIAM THOMSON, JUN.

FROM MR. WILLIAM STEWART,
Elder, College Parish.

Glasgow, 25th Feb., 1840.

Dear Sir,

I am very sorry to hear of the arrangement made by the Directors of the Town's Hospital in regard to their medical staff, and I can truly say, from personal knowledge, that the poor people of the District under your charge in the College Parish, will feel most severely when they learn that they are to be deprived of the benefit of *your* medical superintendence. It is well known to you how extensive my experience in regard to the poor of this city is, from the many proportions held by me, and I can in your case truly say, that I have never heard a single complaint against you from any one of them ; but, on the contrary, I have, upon innumerable occasions, heard them speak of the uniform kindness and attention which, on all occasions, you have ever mani-

fested towards them, and of their entire confidence in your professional skill and attention. I understand that you offer your services for the Hospital department, and I beg to assure you, that if I had any say in that matter, you would certainly be the successful candidate.

I am, dear Sir,
With particular regard,
Yours very truly,
WM. STEWART.

FROM MR. PETER HILL.

GLASGOW TOWN'S HOSPITAL, 30th DEC., 1837.

I certify that Dr. Easton has been one of the District Surgeons of the City, connected with the Town's Hospital, since the 17th May, 1831; that since his appointment to office, his fidelity and zeal in the discharge of his duty, have been such as to entitle him to that approbation which he so deservedly merits. In giving this attestation, I shall be glad indeed, if it can further, in any way, the attainment of any situation which he may have in view.

PETER HILL, Superintendent.

FROM MESSRS. DALGLISH & SMITH.

GLASGOW, FEB. 22, 1840.

We certify that Dr. John A. Easton was employed by the Board of Health during the prevalence of Fever and Cholera in this City; that Dr. Easton acted with the late Dr. John Stirling in the High Street Depôt, highly to the satisfaction of the gentlemen of the Board of Health who had superintendence of the medical department; and that in consequence of his labours in the situation he held, he suffered both from Cholera and Fever, as a patient himself.

ROBERT DALGLISH, *Chairman.*
JOHN SMITH, Ygst., *Convener of Committee.*